January 10, 2004
Catherine Sayers teaches tree pruning techniques to Home Gardening members at Ivy & Linda's home

January 10, 2004

DR. IVY'S
TEA SELECTIONS
(For your relaxation and enjoyment)

Tea Sandwiches:
- Ham
- Egg
- Cucumber

English Muffins
- Pomegranate Jelly
- Olallieberry Preserves

Scones
- Cream Current
- Oatmeal
- Oatmeal Dried Cherry

Coconut Cake
Cranberry and Almond Bundt Cake
Lemon Pound Cake
Marble Pound Cake
Shortbread Fingers with Butterscotch and Toffee Bits
Honey Madeleines
Raspberry Almond Shortbread Squares
Chocolate Cranberry Spice Cookies
Pine Nut Cookies
Harlequins

January 16, 2004
Disneyland
Anaheim, CA

Minnie & Mickey's house in Toontown

The Matterhorn

Haunted Mansion

Parade down Main Street

January 17, 2004
Attending the NAMM Show at the Anaheim Convention Center

Dinner at the Crab Cooker in Newport Beach

January 18, 2004
Sharon, Alexis & Amanda
visited Balboa Island

Orange County Fairgrounds Flea Market

January 19, 2004
Los Angeles County
Museum of Art

Plotting a route
out of Los Angeles

Tule fog in the
San Joaquin
Valley as we
cross the
Grapevine pass

Dessert at Dewar's
in Bakersfield

February 12, 2004 Beatrix Potter ANCA Tea at Denise Sciandra's home

Party decor by Sharon Rossi

Jo Fox, Gerry Hughes and Sharon Rossi prepare for the Tea

Linda Spalding (Beatrix Potter), Denise, Jo and Joanne Alden complete the finishing touches

January 4, 2004
Sharon starts a
painted pot project
for Home Gardening

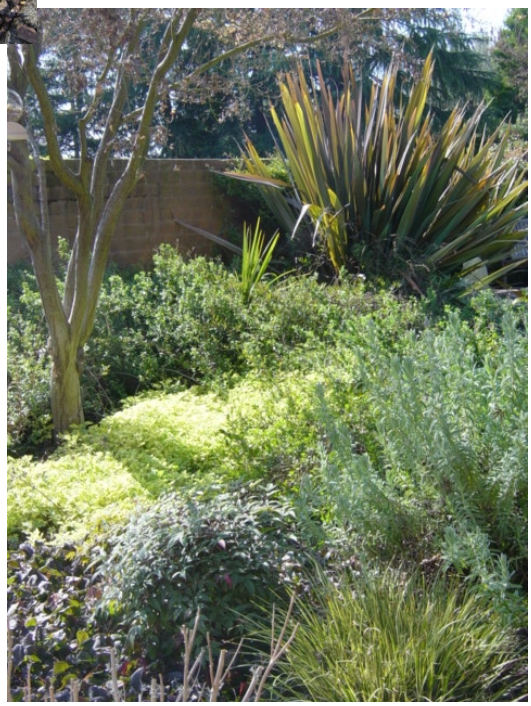
February 14, 2004
Home Gardening creates their painted pots

March 6, 2004
Views of our garden

Side yard with the pear trees in bloom

Sharon's outdoor garden painting

New section
to be planted



March 7, 2004
Marc & Amanda's back yard

Easter decorations!

March 11, 2004
The Rossi cottage in Pacific Grove

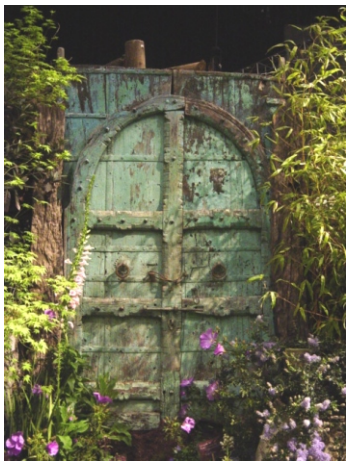
March 11, 2004

March 13, 2004
Maria, Joelle, Petrina & Joey visit Fresno for crafts, a treasure hunt, and a birthday celebration for Alexis and Amanda

Alexis' friend Grover joins in our celebration

March 16, 2004
Home Gardening members gather at the El Rancho Inn in Millbrae before the opening of the San Francisco Flower Show

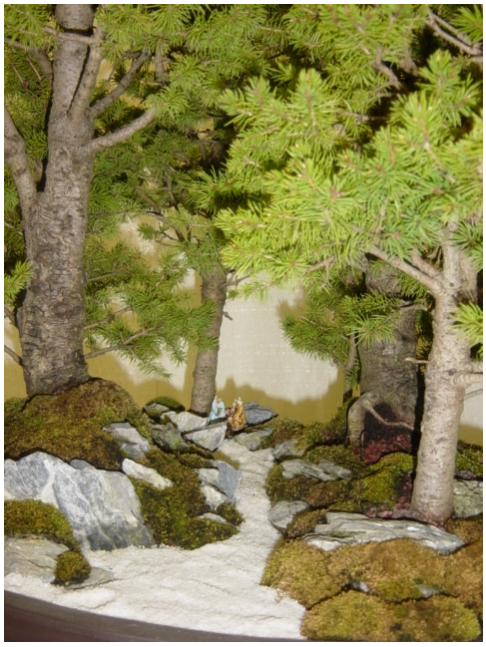
March 17, 2004
At the Flower Show



March 17, 2004
At the Flower Show

March 17, 2004
At the Flower Show

EILEEN CHUN

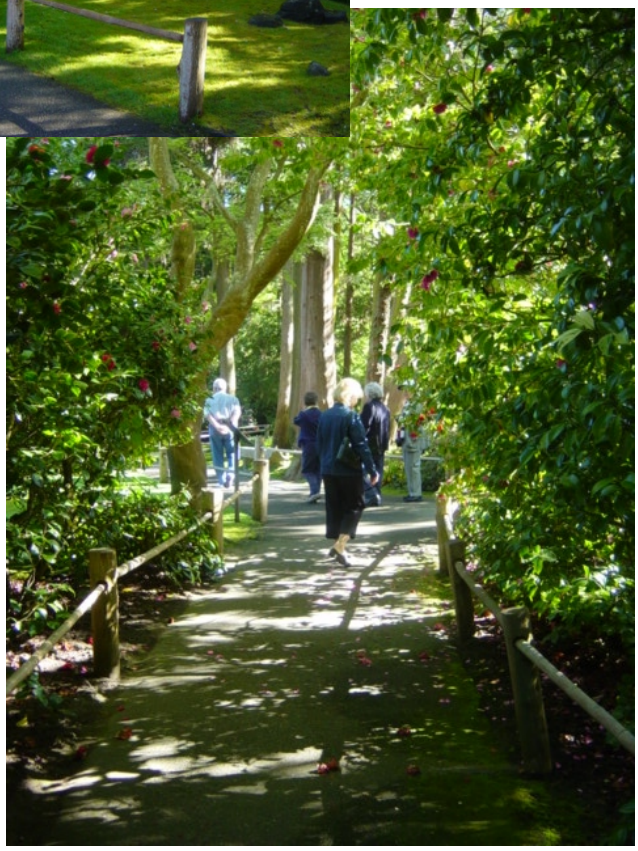


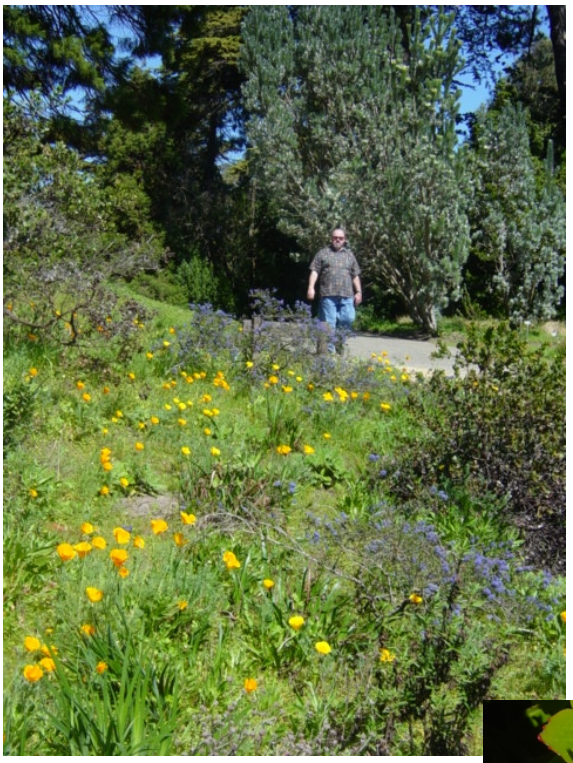
March 17, 2004 - - In the evening, we gathered for happy hour at the El Rancho Inn, then went to dinner at La Collina

March 18, 2004
The Japanese Garden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park

Our friends
Ivy & Linda

The cherry trees and azaleas were in full bloom





Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park

The 125 year old Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park has reopened after eight years of renovations

We ended our trip with a great soul food lunch at Powell's in San Francisco

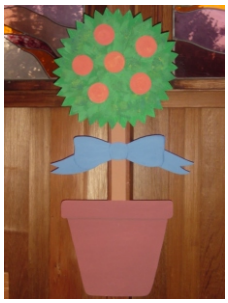
March 19, 2004
Alexis & Don Gaede
rehearsing their duets

March 20, 2004
Auction night at the
Unitarian Universalist Church

Betty

Edie, Bryan & Gary

Catherine, Ivy & Neil



Susan with her decorations

Gary & Nye providing the atmosphere

Alexis & Don

The UU Men's Quartet

April 2, 2004
Alexis and Libby
Truth & Beauty Concert
with the Dr. Maynard Trio

April 3, 2004
Bev & Bob's wedding

April 4, 2004
Home Gardening's annual Plant Exchange at church

April 10, 2004
Coloring Easter eggs

April 11, 2004
Easter Sunday

Kerry, Sharon & Catherine

Betsy & Andrea

After a wonderful buffet dinner, the ninth annual Rossi Easter Egg Obstacle Race began!

Catherine, Gary & Tom made a strong showing at the egg catapult

Alexis lovingly gave her brother Marc some assistance with his run around the course

In an effort to come in last, Jack carefully studied each obstacle before moving his egg

Elizabeth was fast, but Connie showed her prize-winning form

Our champions:
Tom was fastest, Connie was slowest!

Easter gift time

April 30, 2004
“Sophisticated Jazz Dreams” party

Libby & Tom

Alexis, Amanda, Catherine & Sharon

“Club Rossi”

Gary, Nye & Alexis performing

May 21, 2004
"Party For The Parkway"
fund raiser concert

Summa Cum Laude
This table is
RESERVED for
CA State University, Fresno
2004 Graduate
Amanda Dinscore
and Guests

May 21, 2004

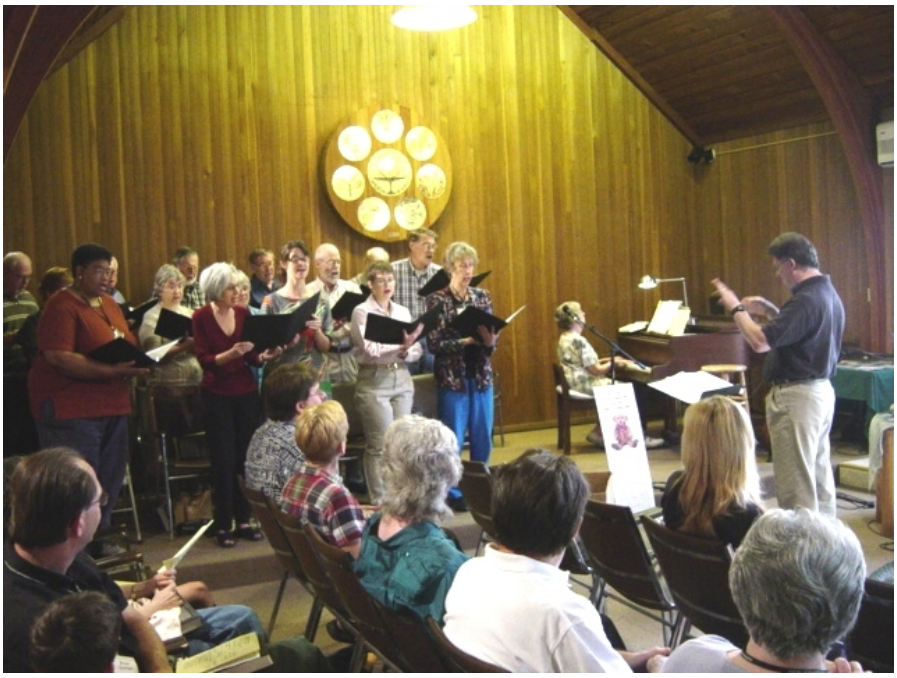
May 22, 2004
Celebrating Amanda's graduation from Fresno State University, Summa Cum Laude, at Marc & Amanda's home

May 22, 2004 - Amanda's mom, Katherin McCoy, was visiting from Texas

May 23, 2004
Finishing the birdhouses at the Unitarian Universalist Church - "Home Gardening" group

Youth Day
Sunday Services

Larry & Jonah Bassman



May 23, 2004 - Norelma Walker Youth Library
"Teddy Bears' Picnic"

May 23, 2004 - NWYL "Teddy Bears' Picnic"

June 14, 2004
Nick, Bettie, Erica and Domenick visited us in Fresno

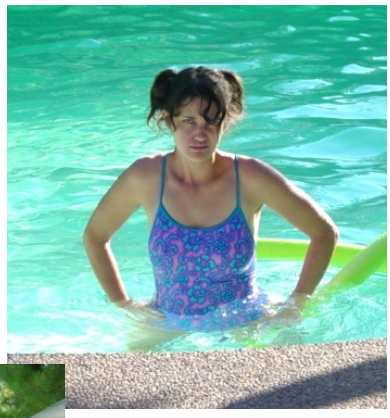
June 14, 2004

The excitement was too much for Gary & Nick

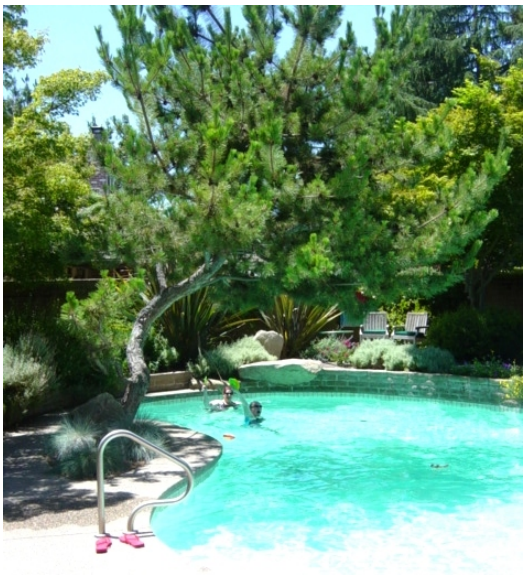
June 15, 2004
At the
Fresno Zoo

June 27, 2004
Good food, fun and games at the Rossi's

Vivian Shinkawa's home grown veggies



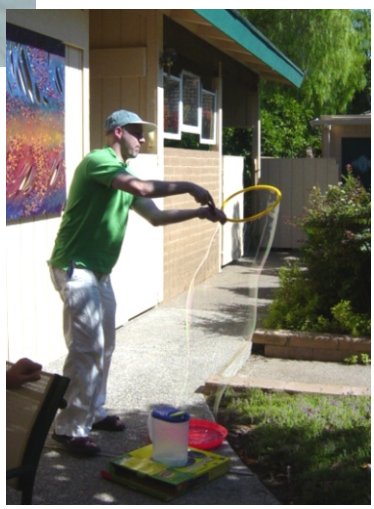
Livid Libby



Heather, Alexis & Susan … TA-DA!

No squirtguns in the house!

Gary, Jeanine, Linda
Rich & Ken tee up

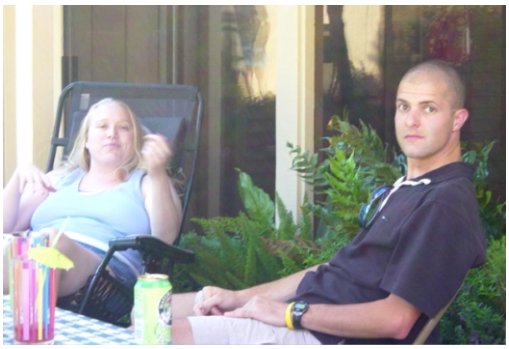


"Lefty" Sal beats Ken
at golf billiards

Bob and Richard
blowing bubbles

Digging into the bountiful buffet

Heather & Marc hanging out



Grover, Amanda and Heather picking tomatoes from Sharon's garden

Ivy's fantastic desserts - a fantastic finish!

Sharon's garden tour

Gary played Rich & Dwayne's special song for their 17th anniversary

Alexis, Sharon and Libby singing for their supper

August 21, 2004
"Broadway & 42nd St."
sing-a-long party

Saul & Babs Eskin and Chris & Howard Watkins provided the beverages and desserts

Vickie and Alexis

Sandy, "sing-a-long diva" Bernadette, her granddaughter Laura and Pat

Denise, Sal, Vickie & Sue at the bar

George wants a chocolate cake with his wine

We sang over two dozen songs from our Broadway lyric booklets. Too bad there were no Broadway talent scouts in the house, because we sounded great!

Dwayne, Rich & Jeanine in their front row seats

As a finale, Alexis sang "You Can't Get A Man With A Gun" from Irving Berlin's "Annie Get Your Gun"

August 29, 2004
Renewal of Vows of Love and Commitment for ALL the people of the Fresno area

Many faiths were represented at the renewal of vows

Some of the many Unitarian Universalist who attended the renewal of vows

Renewal of vows
for all people
August 29, 2004

SPAIN 2004

September 28 - Sharon & Gary spent their first full day in Spain in the beautiful city of Toledo

Hotel Santa Isabel

Toledo Cathedral

Sharon loves the Damascene work from Toledo. At a local workshop, we bought a piece much like the one being handcrafted in the middle photo below.

Plaza Zocodover

Sharon mailed our first postcards from Toledo

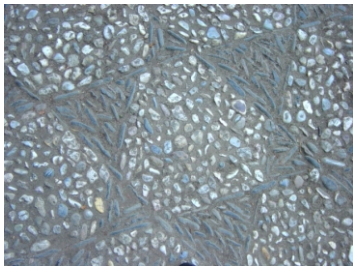
Two views of Toledo

We spent half of September 29 driving from Toledo south to Granada.

For the next three days, we explored the old city of Granada.

Plaza Nueva

September 30
The Alhambra is a highlight of any visit to Andalucia. We started by seeing the Alhambra's Generalife Gardens.

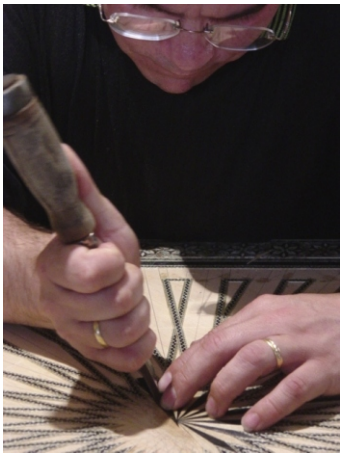


Sharon loved the stone mosaic paths

The Alcazaba

The Albaycin neighborhood viewed from the Alcazaba

Inlaid wood craftsmanship at an Alhambra workshop



The entrance to the Palace of the Nazarids

A dizzying array of patterns and textures cover the walls and ceilings of the palacee.

The Sultan's Throne Room

The harem's quarters are on the second floor behind the cloister screens

"It's good to be the sultan."

The Court of the Lions

Charles V's palace at the Alhambra

The Alhambra, with the Palace of the Nazarids on the left and the Alcazaba on the right, from the river side street below.

Señor Cerveza enjoys a Dutch brew with his tapas.

October 1 - We stopped at a spice market next to the cathedral in Granada

More stone mosaic pavements

We took a harrowing bus ride to the top of the Albaycin quarter for a wonderful view of the Alhambra

A street market and street scenes from the Albaycin neighborhood.

That evening, we returned to the San Nicolas mirador in the Albaycin for the sunset views of the Alhambra.

While waiting for sunset, we enjoyed seeing a wedding party emerging from the church of San Nicolas.

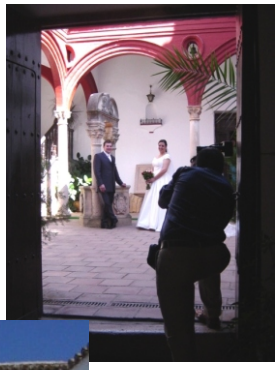
October 2
On the way to the area of Andalucia's Pueblos Blancos, we stopped for lunch at the Garganta del Chorro.

We met an Israeli bicyclist who wanted his picture taken with the Garganta in view, then he returned the favor.

For the next four days, we stayed in the mountaintop white village of Zahara.

October 3
The spectaculary situated city of Ronda was a forty minute drive from Zahara. We spent Sunday morning and afternoon in Ronda enjoying the sights. We had a great lunch at a restaurant with terrace seating at the lip of the gorge.

Built in 1785, Ronda's bullring is the oldest, and most beautiful, in Spain.



With Ronda's cathedral, and with many of Andaucia's churches, the bell tower is a former minaret from the time the building was a mosque.

The gardens of the Casa del Rey Moro were beautiful.

On October 4, we spent the day driving the mountainous terrain and visiting several of the Pueblos Blancos. We left Zahara on a winding, narrow road that rose to a pass at 4800 feet. We met an Austrian bike tour group that was going to descend the road we had just climbed.

We saw many cork trees that had recently been harvested.

The white village of Grazalema

In Montejaque, we had lunch at a neat little restaurant called Las Casitas.

On Tuesday, October 5 we started our day in the white village of Arcos de la Frontera. After navigating some incredibly narrow streets, Gary finally parked the car in front of the cathedral.

VERY narrow streets!

This is the old town market which is in a building that started out as a church but was unfinished.

The cutouts at the windows were designed for the women to be able to SEE outside since they were not allowed to BE outside.

Outside the Cathedral of Arcos, Sharon stood in a magic circle ringed with the 12 constellations.

The body of St. -------

We loved the hand painted ceramics of Arcos de la Frontera.

After driving through beautiful countryside, and before returning to Zahara, our last white village of the day was Setenil. Many of the homes and businesses of Setenil are built right into the rocky hillsides, with the natural stone forming the ceilings or walls of several of the stores we entered!

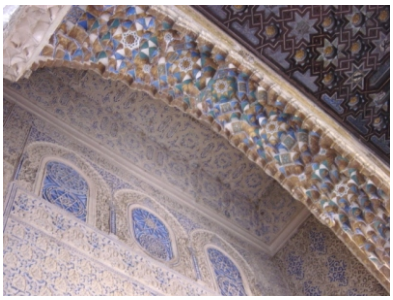
On the morning of October 6, we made the short drive from Zahara to the city of Sevilla. After locating our hotel, we set out on foot to explore the old historic center.

The cathedral of Sevilla, its altar and choir

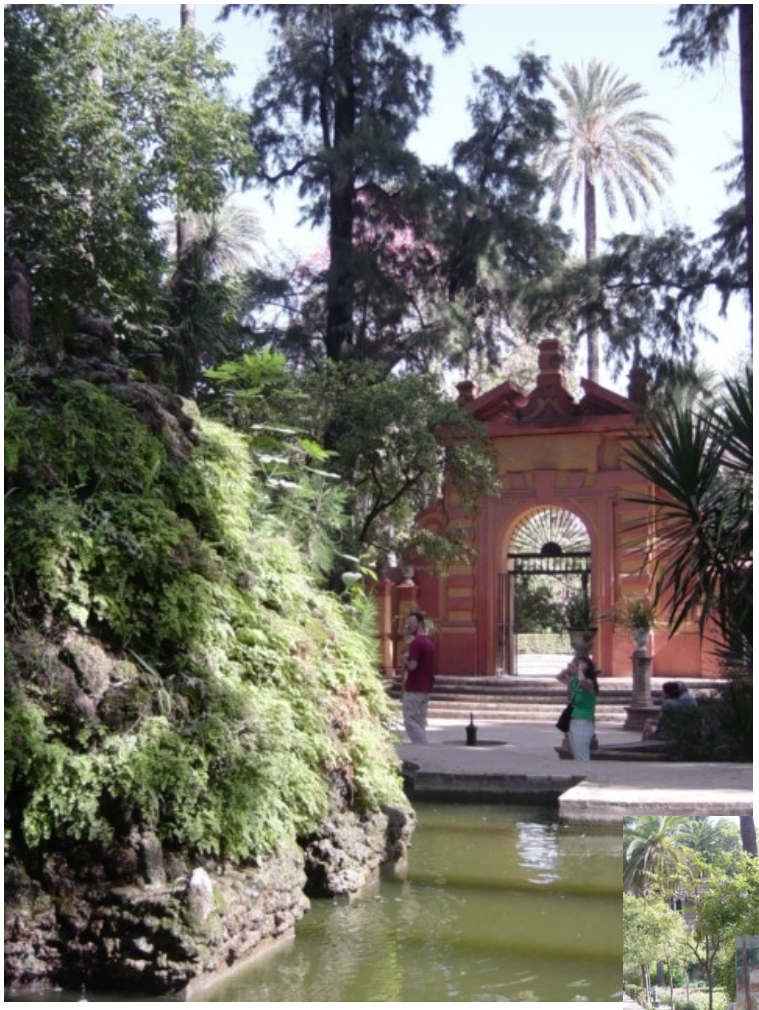
This is the third largest church in Europe, with the tomb of Christofer Columbus to the right, and below, the Moorish Patio of the Oranges and Giralda tower, which we climbed for the views of the cathedral and Sevilla.

An evening of Flamenco at Los Gallos was the perfect way to end our first day in Sevilla.

On Thursday, October 7 we spent most of the day at the Alcazar, a fortified complex of three palaces and extensive gardens.



The weather was perfect for spending time at the Alcazar gardens.



SAN FIACRE
PATRON DE LOS JARDINEROS

After leaving the gardens, we had lunch in the Santa Cruz quarter, a maze of very narrow streets.

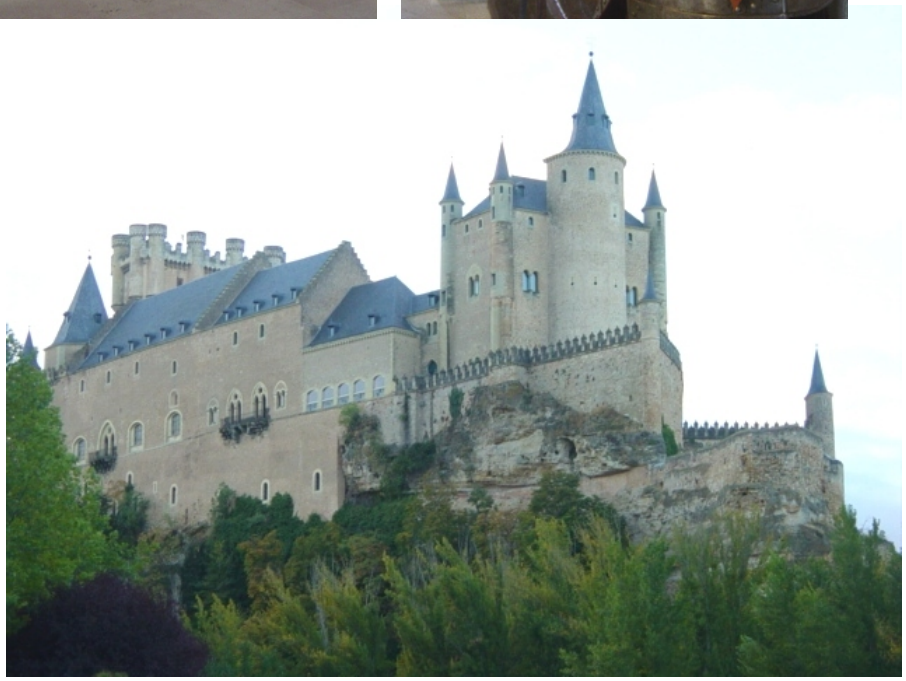
We had so much fun at Los Gallos the night before, we attended another flamenco performance this evening at a club called El Arenal.

On the road to Segovia

Most of October 8 was spent driving to Segovia from Sevilla. When we arrived in Segovia, we were greeted with the sight of an ancient Roman acqueduct dominating the center of the old town.

October 9
Segovia's Alcazar

"It's good to be the king."



Segovia's cathedral was the scene of another wedding

Spain's lottery is very popular!

"Limon y Menta" had such terrific pastries we ate there three times in one day!

Senor Pasteles es un hombre feliz.

**The 12th century church of San Justo was next door to our hotel.
The caretaker, Rafael, gave us a personal tour.**

Gary had Segovia's famous roast suckling pig for dinner that night.

Sunday, October 10 - We drove an hour to visit the medieval walled town of Avila. It was a chilly day walk the walls!

The church of Saint Teresa is built over her place of birth.

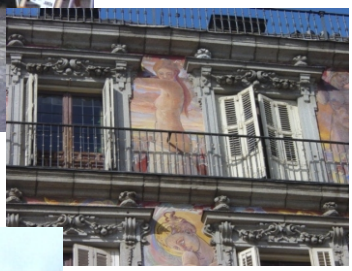
Avila was packed with people on this Sunday to see art exhibits, concerts and a ceremony at the church of St. Teresa.

All over town we saw groups of young people tied together with rope, or in this case, plastic wrap! Sharon got up the nerve to ask a group of six people why their wrists were tied together as they tried to walk around town. The answer was "Just for fun!"

October 11
On Monday morning we dropped off our car in Madrid then started our visit by going to the Palacio Real, home of the King.

The Royal Botanical Gardens were founded in 1775.

Madrid's Plaza Mayor

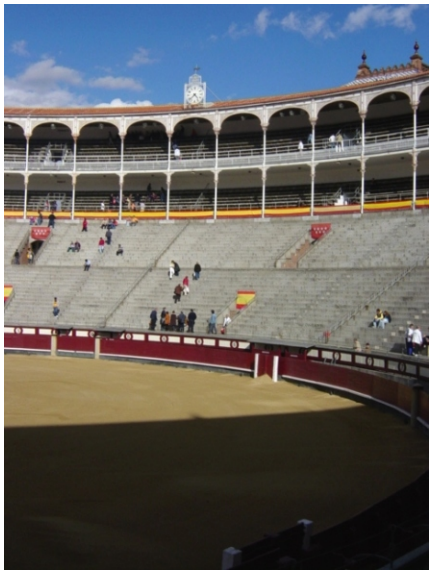


Museo de Jamon (Museum of Ham), Gary's favorite store.

Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid

October 12 is Spain National Day. We got to the parade site early enough for a good view. We saw the King arrive in his Rolls Royce, and saw a spectacle that included thousands of soldiers, horses, military vehicles and airplanes.

Sharon had positioned us near a giant TV screen so we could see the King and other government officials reviewing the troops.



Late in the afternoon of October 12, we attended a bullfight at Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas.

The bullfight features three matadors and their teams, each fighting two bulls.

¡Olé!

Despite several close calls, none of the matadors or their teams were seriously injured.

Fra Angelico
"The Annunciation"

We visited Madrid's Prado museum on October 13. We spent the whole day admiring some of the world's most famous paintings.

Hieronymus Bosch
"The Garden
Of Delights"

El Greco
"Christ Carrying
the Cross"

Diego de la Velazquez
"The Family of
Phillip IV"

A copyist working
in the Prado

Diego de la Velazquez
"The Drunkards"

Francisco de Goya
"The Clothed Maha"
and
"The Nude Maha"

This was our final day in Spain,
and we can't wait to go back!

December 19, 2004
Marc & Amanda hosted a cookie decorating party at their house.

believe
Santa

December 23, 2004
Ivy & Linda joined us for dinner

December 24, 2004
Soup, salad & conviviality
at the Rossi home

The U.U. Home Companion Christmas Eve celebration

Krissie & Gary

Armin, Larry & Bryan

Bev, Alexis & Sharon, aka the "Jingle Belles",
bring down the house with their rendition of "Santa Baby"

December 25, 2004
Christmas together